

Scabies

Scabies is an infestation caused by tiny mites that burrow and lay eggs under the skin, causing a rash. It is important to follow the directions below if your child has scabies.

CAUSE: *Sarcoptes scabiei*, a mite

SYMPTOMS: Rash and intense itching which may be more severe at night. Common locations to see the rash are folds of skin between fingers, around wrists, elbows, and armpits. Other areas where rash may appear are knees, waistline, thighs, male genitals, abdomen, chest, and lower portion of buttocks. Infants may be infested on head, neck, palms, and soles of feet.

TRANSMISSION: By prolonged direct contact with skin or through shared bedding, towels, and clothing of a person with scabies.

INCUBATION: It takes usually 2 to 6 weeks from the time a person is exposed until symptoms appear. Symptoms may appear in 1 to 4 days after exposure if the person has had scabies before.

CONTAGIOUS PERIOD: As long as mites and eggs are present. From the time a person acquires the mites (before rash appears) until 24 hours after treatment begins.



Until after treatment has been given.

Prevention & Control

1. Items such as underwear, pajamas, bedding, and towels should be machine washed in hot water and dried in hot temperatures. Store clothing in a bag for 1 week if it cannot be laundered.
2. Diagnosis: If you suspect scabies in your family members, see your physician. Skin scrapings may be examined to identify the mites.

3. Treatment:

- A. Follow the directions for treatment carefully.
- B. The itching and rash may not go away immediately after treatment.
- C. TREAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD AT THE SAME TIME.

For more information, you or your physician may call the Central District Health Department at 385-5175, or call your local health department.